INSTITUTE FOR CYBER LAW, POLICY, AND SECURITY

2024

Annual Report

University of Pittsburgh

Dear friends,

As we reflect on 2024, I am both proud of and grateful for the significant strides the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security has made in addressing the critical challenges at the intersection of technology, law, and policy, and our commitment to fostering a secure and equitable digital landscape has never been more vital.

Our Civic Resilience Initiative is and will continue to be a cornerstone of our efforts, helping communities to understand and prepare for the impact of our changing information ecosystems. This year, we created an open-access tracker to document social media companies' evolving policies related to elections and partnered with local organizations to educate our community about Pennsylvania's election administration. Our collaboration with public libraries sought to strengthen their role as trusted information hubs, ensuring that our communities remain well informed and resilient.

Our artificial intelligence (AI) accountability efforts continue to yield insights and impact. Our studies on responsible AI, including on the procurement of AI with partners at Carnegie Mellon University, contributed to crucial discussions on the use of AI in government. Our partnership with Spotlight PA on its AI Election Assistant helped to ensure a reliable chatbot on a complex and politicized topic. We are energized by our new AI research partnership with the ADAPT Research Centre at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland.

Education and workforce development continue to be at the heart of our mission. This past year, we hosted our eighth annual Air Force Association CyberCamp, welcoming nearly 150 high school students to learn about cyber ethics and security. The White House's recognition of our camp underscores the impact of our efforts in shaping the nation's future cyber workforce.

Our Hacking4Humanity event remains a beacon of student innovation, bringing together students from Pitt, Carnegie Mellon University, and Duquesne University to develop tech and policy solutions to combat online hate. The opportunity for our student finalists to present their projects to the Pennsylvania governor's office speaks volumes about this work.

Through the Pitt Cyber Accelerator Grants, we continue to support pioneering research across Pitt on topics ranging from influencer marketing of pharmaceutical products to the societal implications of quantum technologies. These projects exemplify our interdisciplinary approach and our commitment to addressing the pressing technology challenges of our time.

Looking ahead, I am inspired by the dedication and ingenuity of our staff, affiliate scholars, and partners. Together, we are making a tangible impact on our world, driving meaningful change in how we navigate the digital age. Please join me in celebrating Pitt Cyber's impact in 2024. We are grateful for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

David Hickton
Founding Director

Mission

Pitt Cyber provides a unique transdisciplinary environment for tackling cyber challenges. We bring the breadth of one of the world's leading public research universities to bear on the critical questions of networks, data, and algorithms, with a focus on the ever-changing gaps among law, policy, and technology. Our collective of legal, policy, and technical researchers engages with policymakers and industry to create both actionable proposals to address current demands and fundamental insights to understand the future as it arrives.

Our Work and Impact

Civic Resilience Initiative

Pitt Cyber's research and programming through its Civic Resilience Initiative works with community organizations to cocreate research and programming to understand how digital technologies are impacting our civic and information ecosystems across Western Pennsylvania and beyond.
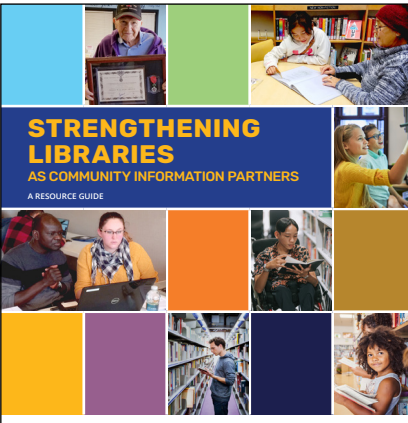
Pitt Cyber built out resources related to our elections and the information ecosystem that surrounds them, with a keen eye on the 2024 election. We created an open-access tracker to chronicle a timeline of social media companies' evolving policies impacting the information environment related to U.S. elections and campaigns from 2016 to the present. We also partnered with the Committee of 70 to create resources about how Pennsylvania's elections work.

Pitt Cyber also published resources for public libraries and librarians to support their pivotal roles as trusted information hubs and community partners. In collaboration with the Whitehall Public Library, we developed a detailed resource guide titled Strengthening Libraries as Community Information Partners.

We continued our survey work to understand better where our region gets its news and information—and what level of trust is placed in that information and in our institutions.

We also spoke to media sources like Fox News, The New York Times, and CNN and to audiences at the White House and here at home to develop workshops for local organizations related to digital information literacy, elections, and more.

AI and Algorithmic Accountability

Founding Director David Hickton with ADAPT Director John Kelleher at Trinity College Dublin.

As AI continues to shape our world and dominate headlines, Pitt Cyber is building on its work that began with the Pittsburgh Task Force on Public Algorithms in 2022.

In 2024, we collaborated with colleagues at Carnegie Mellon University to study how cities are procuring AI systems. Our initial findings are captured in the article "Public Procurement for Responsible AI? Understanding U.S. Cities' Practices, Challenges, and Needs." Our Pitt/Carnegie Mellon team also submitted comments to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget about the responsible procurement of AI in government.

We also worked closely with Spotlight PA to red team its AI Election Assistant, learning about the value of multidisciplinary teaming for this kind of exercise and exploring the implications of AI in the newsroom.

Pitt Cyber also developed a new partnership with Trinity College Dublin's ADAPT Research Centre to collaborate on AI safety research over the next five years.

Pitt Cyber and its affiliates also spoke to audiences across the country about AI, sharing work about the implications of AI for national security, elections, criminal justice, and more. We wrote about how AI search will redefine our information ecosystem. The impact of our work on AI on our local governments was covered by Public Source, and our experts were quoted widely across the media landscape about AI and its implications.

Cybersecurity Workforce Development

Air Force Association CyberCamp

Pitt Cyber hosted its eighth annual Air Force Association CyberCamp for high school students in summer 2024 in partnership with Pitt Information Technology.

The free camp is a pillar of Pitt Cyber's efforts to expand an inclusive pipeline for future technologists. Our camp has been highlighted by the White House for its impact and commitment to the nation's cyber workforce development. Its interactive curriculum is focused on cyber ethics, systems security, and network security.

In 2024, nearly 150 students from across Pittsburgh joined us, with instructors from the University of Pittsburgh, regional high schools, and the corporate world. Led by Pitt Cyber Affiliate Scholar and School of Computing and Information faculty member Ahmed Ibrahim, we piloted Advanced Camp 2.0 for students who had completed two previous years of CyberCamp.

Pitt Cyber is grateful for support for this camp from the EQT Foundation and The Grable Foundation.

Watch "Air Force Association CyberCamp with Pitt Cyber" on YouTube.

Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development Hub

Pitt Cyber partnered with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to begin planning a cybersecurity education and workforce development hub for our region. The hub will bring together K-12 and higher education, workforce development, and industry.

We are excited to be moving toward implementation stages in 2025, led by InnovatePGH and with partners from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and Pittsburgh Technology Council as well as others across the region.

Pitt Cyber is grateful for support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and The Grable Foundation for planning related to the bub.

Executive Director Beth Schwanke in a panel discussion with Seeyew Mo, Assistant National Cyber Director for Workforce, Training and Education in the Office of the National Cyber Director.

Hacking4Humanity

Our annual Hacking4Humanity event brings together students from Pitt, Carnegie Mellon University, and Duquesne University to identify new technology and policy solutions to mitigate online hate and create safer communities.

In 2024, student finalists had the opportunity to present their projects to the Office of Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro.

2024 Finalists

Policy Track Grand Prize Winner: Myles Cramer, University of Pittsburgh, "Protecting Youth from Hateful Conduct and Sexual Harassment Online"

Policy Track Runner-up: Rachael Harris, Carnegie Mellon University, "Tackling Hate Speech on X with Hate Speech"

Tech Track Grand Prize Winner: Rory McCann, Chase Lahner, Ivan Puri, and Holden Gent, University of Pittsburgh, "HateBot"

Tech Track Runner-up: Alex McElravy, Emily Brozeski, and Tessa Datte, Duquesne University, "Tone Tagged Commenting"

Tech Track Honorable Mention: Paul Doherty, Sam Houpt, and Ryan Bloch, University of Pittsburgh, "HateBlocker"

Pitt Cyber Accelerator Grants

We launched the Pitt Cyber Accelerator Grants program in 2018 to provide initial funding for novel and innovative projects that advance Pitt Cyber's mission: to bring the breadth of one of the world's leading public research universities to bear on the critical questions of networks, data, and algorithms, with a focus on the ever-changing gaps among law, policy, and technology.

This grant funding is used to advance projects that establish and extend key intellectual infrastructures, such as research and teaching in methods with broad application and utility across disciplines and projects that bring together researchers across fields of interest.

2024 Recipients

Identifying and Analyzing Influencer Marketing of Pharmaceutical Products on Social Media

This project aims to detect and analyze pharmaceutical influencer marketing on social media, a high-stakes practice that is severely underregulated compared to traditional advertising. By developing algorithms to identify influencer promotions and examining their impact on user engagement and online discussions on social network platforms, this project seeks to address transparency and ethical concerns, ultimately informing better policies for pharmaceutical advertising.

Ryan Shi, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Michael Yoder, Teaching Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Olga Kravchenko, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine

Piloting Informal Learning Experiences through Game Prototyping on the Consequences of Quantum Technologies

Quantum technologies offer immense potential for discovery and innovation while also posing threats to cybersecurity and privacy, which could precipitate global instability and chaos. For example, quantum technologies will make it exponentially easier to profile people by collecting publicly available information from social media (or private data—harvest now, decrypt later) and to break the encryption mechanisms currently used by businesses, health care organizations, governments, critical infrastructure, and cyber-physical systems. This project aims to pilot informal learning experiences through game making for high school students in Pittsburgh public schools to foster their early interest in quantum technologies while engaging them with the societal implications of exponentially increased computing power.

Raquel Coelho, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Junyu Liu, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Christian Schunn, Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Ahmed Ibrahim, Teaching Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information

Dmitriy Babichenko, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information

Examining Privacy Practices and Adaptations in Health Research following the 2023 NIH Data Sharing Policy

This project explores how health researchers are adapting to the 2023 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Management and Sharing Policy, which encourages open data sharing while maintaining participant privacy. Through document analysis and interviews, the researchers aim to identify and build on the challenges, strategies, and gaps in tools or knowledge and to provide actionable recommendations to balance data sharing and privacy protection. Findings from the proposed project will help to inform the design of digital tools and practices for data sharing.

Aakash Gautam, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

M. Amin Rahimian, Assistant Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Exploring the Societal Impacts of Wireless Technology Evolution and Obsolescence

Over the past four decades, commercial wireless technologies have seen a generational change every decade, resulting in the evolution, obsolescence, and replacement of wireless networks, devices, and platforms. The decommissioning of these technologies has far-reaching (yet unstudied) cultural, political, and economic effects. This project initiates research examining the ramifications of sunsetting wireless technologies (and refarming radio spectrum) on society.

Frances Correy, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Prashant Krishnamurthy, Professor, School of Computing and Information

Hemispheric Headspace Extension

Hemispheric Headspace Extension is a foundational set of collaborations between faculty at the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and faculty fellows at Pitt Cyber. The researchers intend to work together on an archive digitization project; to collaborate on two undergraduate courses, Writing as Witness: Public Lab and Writing as Witness: South Africa; and to open further discussions pertaining to ethical concerns associated with archival building, valuation, digitization, and the implications for data mining of archival materials using machine learning and AI tools in Pittsburgh and in Cape Town.

Jennifer Keating, Teaching Professor and Writing in the Disciplines Specialist, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Eleanor Mattern, Director, Sara Fine Institute, and Teaching Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Valmont Layne, New Visions Archivist, Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape

Cross-sector Cybersecurity Risk, Technological Innovation, and the Role of Policy

The purpose of this project is to explore how emerging technologies like certified software can reduce cybersecurity risks, improve risk modeling, and inform policy development through interdisciplinary collaboration among industry, government, and academia. Doing so will address the growing challenges of cyber risk by exploring how emerging technologies, such as certified software, can reduce vulnerabilities, improve risk assessment, and transform cyber policy. By convening experts from industry, government, and academia through a seminar series and workshop, the researchers will explore solutions that transform how we model and mitigate cyber threats, with a focus on both technical innovation and policy frameworks.

Erica Owen, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Daniel Cole, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Publications

How the 119th Congress Can Move the Needle on U.S. Cybersecurity | December 2024 | David Hickton and Mark Montgomery | The Hill

Tracking Social Media Platforms' Fluctuating Approaches to U.S. Elections | November 2024 | Elise Silva and Beth Schwanke | Tech Policy Press

Public Procurement for Responsible AI? Understanding U.S. Cities' Practices, Challenges, and Needs | November 2024 | Nari Johnson, Elise Silva, Harrison Leon, Motahhare Eslami, Beth Schwanke, Ravit Dotan, and Hoda Heidari

Social Media Platform Election Policy Tracker | October 2024 | Pitt Cyber

Strengthening Libraries as Community Information Partners | September 2024 | Elise Silva, Pitt Cyber, in collaboration with Paula Kelly and Sarah Rouhan, Whitehall Public Library

News Sources and Trust in Information in Southwest Pennsylvania | September 2024 | Elise Silva and Lara Putnam | University of Pittsburgh

AI-powered Search and the Rise of Google's "Concierge Wikipedia" | May 2024 | Elise Silva | Tech Policy Press

Responsible Procurement of Artificial Intelligence in Government | April 2024 | Carnegie Mellon University Block Center for Technology and Society's Responsible AI Initiative | Pitt Cyber

Move Our Pandemic, Cybersecurity Strategies from 'Panic and Neglect' to 'Prepare and Prevent' | April 2024 | David Hickton | The Hill

When Even the Aliquippa Water Authority Is a Target for Hackers | March 2024 | David Hickton | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Selected Affiliate Scholar Publications

Behavior-based Dependency Networks Improve Predictability of Economic Resilience | December 2024 | Takahiro Yabe, Bernardo García Bulle Bueno, Morgan R. Frank, Alex Pentland, and Esteban Moro | Nature Human Behaviour

Measuring Network Dynamics of Opioid Overdose Deaths in the United States | November 2024 | Kushagra Tiwari, M. Amin Rahimian, Mark S. Roberts, Praveen Kumar, and Jeanine M. Buchanich | Scientific Reports

Course-Skill Atlas: **A National Longitudinal Dataset of Skills Taught in U.S. Higher Education Curricula** | October 2024 | Alireza Javadian Sabet, Sarah H. Bana, Renzhe Yu, and Morgan R. Frank | Nature Scientific Data

Trust in Materials: Library Workers' Adoption and Adaptation of Open Educational Resources | October 2024 | Eleanor Mattern, Veena Vasudevan, Chelsea Gunn, Jessica Ghilani, and Elizabeth Monk | Association for Library and Information Science Education

The Production of Destruction: How Employee Values Shape Platform Afterlives | September 2024 | Francis Corry | New Media & Society

Understanding Human-machine Cooperation in Game-theoretical Driving Scenarios amid Mixed Traffic | May 2024 | Yutong Zhang, Edmond Awad, Morgan R. Frank, Peng Liu, and Na Du | CHI

Algorithmically Mediating Communication to Enhance Collective Decision-aking in Online Social Networks | April 2024 | Jason Burton, Abdullah Almaatouq, M. Amin Rahimian, and Ulrike Hahn | Collective Intelligence

Long Ties across Networks Accelerate the Spread of Social Contagions | April 2024 | Dean Eckles and M. Amin Rahimian | Nature Human Behavior

Differentially Private Distributed Estimation and Learning | March 2024 | Marios Papachristou and M. Amin Rahimian | IISE Transactions

Network Constraints on Worker Mobility | January 2024 | Morgan R. Frank, Esteban Moro, Tobin South, Alex Rutherford, Alex Pentland, Bledi Taska, and Iyad Rahwan | Nature Cities

Break Out of a Pigeonhole: A Unified Framework for Examining Miscalibration, Bias and Stereotype in Recommender Systems | 2024 | Yongsu Ahn and Yu-Ru Lin | ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology

Affiliate Scholar Highlights

Affiliate Scholar and Swanson School of Engineering faculty member Mai Abdelhakim served as a cochair of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers workshop on Security and Resiliency of Critical Infrastructure and Space Technologies in October 2024 and testified before the Pennsylvania State Senate about cybersecurity issues for local governments and municipal authorities.

Affiliate Scholar and Swanson School of Engineering faculty member **Mai Abdelhakim** served as a cochair of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers workshop on Security and Resiliency of Critical Infrastructure and Space Technologies in October 2024 and testified before the Pennsylvania State Senate about cybersecurity issues for local governments and municipal authorities.

Affiliate Scholar and School of Computing and Information faculty member **Amy Babay** and **PhD students** received the Best Paper Award at the 43rd International Symposium on Reliable Distributed Systems.

The Cyber Energy Center at Pitt, supported by the U.S. Department of Energy and led by Affiliate Scholar and Swanson School of Engineering faculty member **Dan Cole**, launched in 2024. The center is creating an interdisciplinary ecosystem to protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

Affiliate Scholar and School of Computing and Information faculty member **Morgan Frank** received a $250,000 grant from Walmart Labs to study how AI will impact skills and the potential for dynamic credentialing. Frank also was cited in the 2024 Economic Report of the President of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Affiliate Scholar and University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg faculty member **Jessica Ghilani** appeared regularly on KDKA-TV's "Talk Pittsburgh" to share her expertise on social media, talking about everything from banning TikTok to digital hygiene to understanding social media algorithms.

Affiliate Scholar and School of Computing and Information (SCI) faculty member **Ahmed Ibrahim** led GenCyber@Pitt, a National Security Agency-funded program to prepare high school teachers to teach cybersecurity, for the second summer. Fellow Affiliate Scholars and SCI faculty members **Prashant Krishnamurthy** and **Balaji Palanisamy** joined the effort.

Affiliate Scholars and Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences faculty members **Svitlana Maksymenko** and **Carey Treado** received a coteaching fellowship from the Pitt European Studies Center to develop a course on the economics of cybersecurity. The course will be offered as an upper-level undergraduate course in the Department of Economics during the 2025-26 academic year and is expected to be expanded to include a graduate student course in subsequent years.

Affiliate Scholar and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs faculty member **Julia Santucci** launched a new capstone course, titled Diplomacy in Action, through which students responded to questions posed by the U.S. Department of State through its Diplomacy Lab program. One group of students researched Russian propaganda efforts in the Sahel region of Africa and provided policy recommendations on how the United States can help local communities to build resilience to counter these harmful campaigns.

Selected Programming and Events

In 2024, members of Pitt Cyber attended events across Pennsylvania, across the country, and around the world, with Director **David Hickton** speaking to audiences in Brussels, Belgium; Dublin, Ireland; Edinburgh, Scotland; and beyond. Pitt Cyber representatives also hosted events for local governments about data governance and for the White House about cybersecurity workforce development and spoke at dozens of events for local organizations wanting to understand our election administration.

AI Panel Discussion: Election Security and Combating Disinformation | Hosted by the Committee of 70 and Philadelphia Councilmember-at-Large Rue Landau | Featuring Affiliate Scholar Lara Putnam | Oct. 24, 2024

Games for Social Impact | Hosted by the School of Computing and Information, the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the Center for African Studies, and Pitt Cyber | Oct. 18, 2024

AI Policy and the Future of Democracy in Pennsylvania | Hosted by the 2024 Tech Ethics Symposium | Featuring Director of Policy Research Elise Silva | Oct. 18, 2024

Preparing the Workforce of Tomorrow: Adapting Education for the AI Economy | Hosted by AI Horizons | Featuring Executive Director Beth Schwanke | Oct. 14, 2024

Applying Machine Learning to Securing Cellular Networks | Distinguished Laboratory of Education and Research on Security Assured Information Systems Seminar Series | Oct. 10, 2024

AI and Elections Symposium | Hosted by the University of South Carolina | Featuring Affiliate Scholar Lara Putnam | Oct. 4, 2024

National Security AI Workshop | Hosted by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville | Featuring Affiliate Scholar Michael Colaresi | Oct. 4, 2024

Winners and Losers in the Next 2024 Elections | Hosted by the Department of Sociology, the Department of Political Science, and Pitt Cyber | Oct. 2, 2024

MetroLab Network Data Governance Workshop | In partnership with Pitt Cyber and the City of Pittsburgh | Sept. 27, 2024

Newsapalooza: "Shadowcast Information: Exploring the Intersection of Media, Trust, and Civic Engagement" | Hosted by the Point Park University Center for Media Innovation | Featuring Affiliate Scholar Lara Putnam and Director of Policy Research Elise Silva | Sept. 26, 2024

Protecting Our Elections: Analyzing 2024 AI Threats and Lessons in Resilience from Around the World | Hosted by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh | Featuring Director David Hickton | Sept. 25, 2024

Keep Our Republic AI and Cyber: The Future of National Security | Hosted by Pitt Cyber- Featuring Director David Hickton | Sept. 18, 2024

Constitution Day: Democracy's Information Problem | Hosted by the School of Law and Pitt Cyber | Sept. 17, 2024

Click Smart: Online Safety and Misinformation Awareness | Hosted by Pitt Cyber, Spotlight PA, and Casa San Jose | Sept. 15, 2024

Defending Democracy: Cyber Threats and Foreign Interference in U.S. Elections | Hosted by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney | Featuring Director David Hickton | Sept. 12, 2024

Misinformation and Hate Speech on WhatsApp: Insights from a Large-scale Data Donation Study | Hosted by Pitt Cyber, the Swanson School of Engineering Department of Industrial Engineering, and the Computational Social Science Seminar Series | Sept. 6, 2024

Cybersecurity Workforce Development Roundtable and Workshop with the White House Office of the National Cyber Director | Hosted by Pitt Cyber, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and the Pittsburgh Technology Council | July 17, 2024

Truth, Misinformation, and Technology in World History | Hosted by the Alliance for Learning in World History | Featuring Director of Policy Research Elise Silva | June 1, 2024

AI and the Criminal Justice System | Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections Annual Conference | Featuring Executive Director Beth Schwanke | May 22, 2024

Cyburgh 2024: Digital Defense: Navigating the Rise of Cyber Threats and Building Cyber Resiliency for the Inevitable Attack | Hosted by the Pittsburgh Technology Council and Ethical Intruder | Featuring Executive Director Beth Schwanke | May 1, 2024

Committee of 70 Election Day Edition | Featuring Executive Director Beth Schwanke | April 30, 2024

WATCH: A Q&A with Top Pa. Election Official Al Schmidt | Hosted by Spotlight PA | April 6, 2024

Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America | with Barbara McQuade | Hosted by Pitt Cyber, the Dick Thornburgh Forum, and the Institute of Politics

Rule of Law in the Digital Age: Anticipating and Deterring the Cyber Threats of Tomorrow | Hosted by the Cyber Security Coalition – Brussels | Featuring Director David Hickton | March 19, 2024

Prediction and Punishment: Cross-disciplinary Workshop on Carceral AI | Hosted by the Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh, the Center for Ethics and Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and Pitt Cyber | Feb. 9, 2024

In the News

Rise of the iPhone, Social Media 'Opened up a New World' in 21st Century | TribLIVE | Dec. 31, 2024

How the 119th Congress Can Move the Needle on U.S. Cybersecurity by David Hickton | The Hill | Dec. 16, 2024

Resetting your Social Media Algorithm with Jess Ghilani | Talk Pittsburgh | Dec. 12, 2024

The Looming TikTok Ban Doesn't Strike Financial Fear into the Hearts of Creators — It's Community They're Worried About | Technical.ly | Dec. 12, 2024

Is There a Future for TikTok in the U.S? | TribLIVE| Dec. 9, 2024

Tracking Social Media Platforms' Fluctuating Approaches to U.S. Elections | Tech Policy Press | Nov. 13, 2024

The New Dark Money: How Influencers Get Paid Big Bucks to Court Your Vote | The Washington Post | Nov. 7, 2024

Harris and Trump Are Navigating Pennsylvania's Gender Gap with Bro Podcasts and Ladies' Room Post-its | The Philadelphia Inquirer | Nov. 7, 2024

Grappling with Stress over the Election? Here's How to Address It | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Nov. 7, 2024

The Symbolism of Kamala Harris Speaking Where Trump Held His January 6 Rally | CNN International | Nov. 7, 2024

Democrats, Once Supreme in Pittsburgh Region, Now Overtaken by GOP | TribLive | Nov. 4, 2024

Philly Officials Raise the Alarm about AI Fakes Ahead of Election Day | Technical.ly | Oct. 28, 2024 As AI Threatens Election Security, the Search for Solutions Takes on New Urgency| Hosted by City and State Pennsylvania | Oct. 28, 2024

As AI Threatens Election Security, the Search for Solutions Takes on New Urgency | Hosted by City and State Pennsylvania | Oct. 28, 2024

Councilmember Landau and Committee of Seventy to Host Panel on AI and Election Security in Philadelphia ahead of Election Day | Impacto | Oct. 25, 2024

Lara Putnam, Professor of History and the Director of Global Studies Center at Pitt, Analyzes Voter Registration | CNN | Oct. 24, 2024

Election and Truth: Health Misinformation in 2024 | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Oct. 24, 2024

Meet 10 Pennsylvanians Who Could Help Decide the 2024 Election | Spotlight PA | Oct. 24, 2024

PA Election Chief: Give Us All the Votes | Pittsburgh Union Progress | Oct. 24, 2024

Bad Actors: These Foreign Countries Want to Influence the U.S. Election | U.S. News & World Report | Oct. 23, 2024

Social Media, Political Burnout Impact Young Voters in Western Pa. | TribLive | Sept. 24, 2024

Michigan's Big Show Starring Michael Patrick Shiels, Featuring David Hickton | Sept. 18, 2024

Former U.S. Attorney Puts Election Security in the Spotlight on '4 The Record' | WTAE-TV | Sept. 15, 2024

Killer Apps, Season 2: Sextortion | Fox Nation | Sept. 13, 2024

Killer Apps: Season 2; Deepfakes | Fox Nation | Sept. 13, 2024

'We Need to Get Smart Real Fast': '4 The Record' Focuses on Cybersecurity | WTAE-TV | Aug. 19, 2024

Pitt Cyber and ADAPT Join Forces to Advance Human-centric AI Research | Irish Tech News | Aug. 1, 2024

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Play Catch-up on Algorithm Regulation as AI Poses New Risks | PublicSource | July 29, 2024

Pitt's CyberCamp Is Diversifying the Tech Professional Pipeline in Pittsburgh and Beyond | Pittwire | July 22, 2024

Pittsburgh Professor Explains Why Misinformation Circulated after Attempted Assassination of Trump | KDKA News | July 22, 2024

Conspiracy Theories Spread Wildly Online after Trump Shooting — Including by Members of Congress | The Philadelphia Inquirer | July 22, 2024

Even Disinformation Experts Don't Know How to Stop It | The New York Times | July 22, 2024

How We're Covering the 2024 Election and Its Far-reaching Implications | PublicSource | July 27, 2024

Taking a Deeper Dive into AI with Dr. Jess Ghilani | CBS News | June 13, 2024

Talking About What's Behind AI and If It's Here to Help, or Hurt | CBS News | June 13, 2024

AI-powered Search and the Rise of Google's "Concierge Wikipedia" | Tech Policy Press | May 29, 2024

The Battle for Trade Secrets and National Security | CyberWire | May 20, 2024

UC Davis Health Cloud Innovation Center, Powered by AWS, Uses Generative AI to Fight Health Misinformation | Amazon Web Services | April 26, 2024

Move Our Pandemic, Cybersecurity Strategies from 'Panic and Neglect' to 'Prepare and Prevent' | The Hill | April 11, 2024

WATCH: A Q&A with Top Pa. Election Official Al Schmidt | Spotlight PA | April 5, 2024

Can the Government Pressure Social Media to Censor Itself? | KNX News | March 21, 2024

Election Testing Underway in Westmoreland County |TribLIVE | March 12, 2024

David Hickton: When Even the Aliquippa Water Authority Is a Target for Hackers | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | March 1, 2024

4 Biases that Leave Under-represented Groups Out of GenAI-assisted Journalism | International Journalists' Network | Feb. 27, 2024

Butler County Officials Announce Breach of County Computer Network Involving Much of the Public's Personal Data | TribLive | Feb. 23, 2024

From CyberCamp to Cybersecurity | Pitt Information Technology | Feb. 22, 2024

Washington County Board of Commissioners to Vote on Next Step after Cyberattack | KDKA News | Feb. 15, 2024

Pitt, Duquesne and CMU Join National AI Safety Consortium | WESA | Feb. 13, 2024

Data Ethics across the Disciplines: Bring Your Questions and Join the Conversation | University Times | Feb. 12, 2024

Pitt Announces Participation in Department of Commerce Consortium Dedicated to AI Safety | The Pitt News | Feb. 9, 2024

Pennsylvania Courts Website Targeted in Cyberattack | KDKA News | Feb. 6, 2024

Predators Trying to Connect with Young Teens Using Online Platforms | WPXI | Feb. 5, 2024

Child Endangerment in "Los Picos" Fan Groups: Facebook (Still) Has a Child Predation Problem | Tech Policy Press | Jan. 23, 2024

People

Institute Staff

David Hickton, Founding Director; Professor, School of Law

Beth Schwanke, Executive Director

Elise Silva, Director of Policy Research

Sarah Barca, Administrative Director

Yu-Ru Lin, Research and Academic Director; Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information

Kate Ulreich, Technology Engagement Leader, with thanks to the generosity of Pitt Information Technology

Affiliate Scholars

Pitt Cyber's affiliate scholars are faculty drawn from across the University.

Kevin C. Abbott, Professor of Practice, School of Law

Mai Abdelhakim, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Kevin D. Ashley, Professor, School of Law

Amy Babay, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Dmitriy Babichenko, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information

Mostafa Bedewy, Assistant Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Candice Biernesser, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine

Jaime Booth, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Research, School of Social Work

Tinukwa Boulder, Associate Professor of Practice, School of Education

Ronald A. Brand, Academic Director, Center for International Legal Education; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Professor; and John E. Murray Faculty Scholar, School of Law

Matt Burton, Lecturer, School of Computing and Information

Judy L. Cameron, Professor, School of Medicine

Bruce R. Childers, Dean and Professor, School of Computing and Information

William W. Clark, Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Michael Colaresi, Associate Vice Provost for Data Science; William S. Dietrich II Chair of Political Science, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Dan Cole, Associate Professor and Director, Stephen R. Tritch Nuclear Engineering Program, Swanson School of Engineering

Frances Corry, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Mary Crossley, Professor and John E. Murray Faculty Scholar, School of Law

Robert K. Cunningham, Vice Chancellor for Research Infrastructure

Stephanie Dangel, Professor of Practice, School of Law

Na Du, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Rosta Farzan, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information

Morgan R. Frank, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Lindsey French, Visiting Assistant Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Wei Gao, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Aakash Gautam, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Jessica Ghilani, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Michael Goodhart, Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, and Director, Global Studies Center

Sarah Goodkind, Professor, School of Social Work

Max Goplerud, Assistant Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Bob Gradeck, Project Director, Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

Melinda Haas, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Joel M. Haight, Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

David A. Harris, Sally Ann Semenko Endowed Chair and Professor, School of Law

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Harry Hochheiser, Professor and Director, Biomedical Informatics Training Program, School of Medicine

Beth Hoffman, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health

Jingtong Hu, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

M. Zia Hydari, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Ahmed Ibrahim, Teaching Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Alex Jones, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering, and Associate Director, National Science Foundation Center for Space, High-performance, and Resilient Computing

Kate Joranson, Head Librarian, Frick Fine Arts Library

James Joshi, Professor, School of Computing and Information

Jennifer Keating, Senior Lecturer and Writing in the Disciplines Specialist, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Michael Kenney, Professor; Posvar Chair in International Security Studies; and Director, Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Charles T. Kotuby Jr., Professor of Practice and Executive Director, Center for International Legal Education, School of Law

Maria Kovacs, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, School of Medicine

Adriana Kovashka, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Prashant Krishnamurthy, Professor and Chair, Department of Informatics and Networked Systems, School of Computing and Information

Howard A. Kuhn, Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

John R. Lange, Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information

Alison Langmead, Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Visual Media, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and School of Computing and Information

Adam J. Lee, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Programs, School of Computing and Information

Stephen Lee, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Young Ji Lee, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Administration, Department of Health and Community Systems, School of Nursing

Sera Linardi, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Jacqueline Lipton, Assistant Professor, School of Law

Michael J. Madison, Professor and John E. Murray Faculty Scholar, School of Law

Svitlana Maksymenko, Teaching Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Eleanor Mattern, Teaching Assistant Professor and Director, Sara Fine Institute, School of Computing and Information

Danielle R. Mehlman-Brightwell, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Lucas Mentch, Assistant Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Rebekah Miller, Research and Instruction Librarian, Health Sciences Library System

Leona Mitchell, Professor of Practice and Founding Director, Professional Institute, School of Computing and Information

Daniel Mossé, Professor, School of Computing and Information

Audrey J. Murrell, Professor, Pitt Business

Lisa S. Nelson, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Mary L. Ohmer, Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Erica Owen, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Balaji Palanisamy, Associate Professor, School of Computing and Information

Cassie F. Quigley, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leading, School of Education

Stephen Quigley, Teaching Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Ana Radovic, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine

M. Amin Rahimian, Assistant Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Gregory Reed, Director, Center for Energy and Energy Grid Institute, Swanson School of Engineering

Anthony Rodi, Clinical Associate Professor, Pitt Business

Gayle Rogers, Andrew W. Mellon Professor and Chair, Department of English, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Julia M. Santucci, Senior Lecturer; Director, Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership; and Director, Frances Hesselbein Leadership Forum, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Jeffrey Shook, Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Jaime Sidani, Associate Professor, School of Public Health

Jonathan Silverstein, Chief Research Informatics Officer, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences and Institute for Precision Medicine, and Visiting Professor, School of Medicine

David Tipper, Professor, School of Computing and Information

Albert C. To, Associate Professor and CNG Faculty Fellow; Director, Modeling and Optimization Simulation Tools for Additive Manufacturing Consortium; and Director, ANSYS Additive Manufacturing Research Laboratory, Swanson School of Engineering

Carey Treado, Associate Teaching Professor, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Veena Vasudevan, Assistant Professor, School of Education

Annette Vee, Associate Professor and Director, Composition Program, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Education

Götz Veser, Nickolas DeCecco Professor and Associate Director, Center for Energy, Swanson School of Engineering

Martin B.H. Weiss, Professor, School of Computing and Information

Phil Williams, Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Christopher E. Wilmer, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Samuel C. Woolley, Associate Professor and William S. Dietrich II Endowed Chair in Disinformation Studies, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Jonathan Woon, Professor and Associate Dean, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Lingfei Wu, Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Information

Judith Chun-Hsu Yang, William Kepler Whiteford Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Joseph T. Yun, Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Architect, Pitt Information Technology, and Research Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Vladimir Zadorozhny, Professor, School of Computing and Information

Bo Zeng, Associate Professor, Swanson School of Engineering

Taieb Znati, Professor Emeritus, School of Computing and Information

Affiliate Practice Scholars

Pitt Cyber's affiliate practice scholars are drawn from across the industry and policy worlds.

Diana Bishop, Former Detachment 730 Commander and Professor, Aerospace Studies

Michael A. Comber, Partner, Farrell & Reisinger, LLC

Christopher A. Geary, Senior Manager, Ernst & Young LLP

Brian Geffert, Global Chief Information Security Officer, KPMG International

Caitriona Heinl, Executive Director, Azure Forum for Contemporary Security Strategy, and Adjunct Research Fellow, University College Dublin

James T. Kitchen, Partner, Jones Day

John Kropf, Corporate Privacy Executive, Northrop Grumman

Martin Lindner, Managing Principal Consultant, SecureWorks

Keith Mularski, Chief Global Ambassador, Qintel

Brian Murphy, Managing Director, Logically.AI

David Odom, Chief Information Security Officer, Naval Nuclear Laboratory

Harvey Rishikof, Director of Cybersecurity, Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security, University of Maryland

Sean Sweeney, Field Chief Information Security Officer and Cloud Security Advisor Group Leader, Oracle

With Gratitude

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University of Pittsburgh

Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security

2516 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

cyber.pitt.edu